

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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UP-TOWN OFFICE, BROAD-STREET PHARMACY, 619 EAST BROAD STREET. MANCHESTER OFFICE, 1203 HULL STREET.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1898.

Friends of the Dispatch would do us a favor by informing us promptly of any failure on the part of newdealers, or newdealers on railroad trains, to meet the public demand for copies of this paper. Information is also desired by us of the delinquency of any carrier of ours in Richmond, Manchester, or elsewhere.

Mail subscribers are likewise invited to report to us whenever their papers come late or irregularly.

THE CRY FOR CLEAR WATER.

So long as James river continues as muddy as it is at present, "the water question" will remain an important one. And the more it is discussed the more apt is the City Council to arrive at a correct conclusion as to what should be done to furnish our people with clear water instead of the nasty-looking red stuff that now oozes out of our hydrants.

We are under the impression that Richmond would have better off than it is now if we had more thoroughly discussed the matter of building our new water works. We "know" that we might have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars if there had been a freer discussion of the City-Hall plan and work.

In the present case we ought to inform ourselves thoroughly before we make any decisive movement. Our city is now as near to her bonded-debt limit as it ought to go, save for the accomplishment of a great good as to which the community are agreed. Whether or not the enterprise in question would justify the absorption of a great part of that margin, largely depends upon whether we are reasonably sure we shall have the thing we want after we have spent our money!

Three methods have been suggested to give us clear water at all seasons of the year—to-wit: By boring Artesian wells; by using some sort of mechanical filtration process, and, lastly, by providing ourselves with large storage reservoirs or settling-basins.

Quite a number of Artesian wells have been bored in or near Richmond of late years. But not one of them is a flowing well. The water from each has to be pumped to the surface from depths that are much greater than the depths of the ordinary wells of this neighborhood. (Which of these Artesian wells afford pure water and which do not we are unable to say; but it is certain that the waters of some that have been analyzed do not show satisfactory constituents. They are supposed to be contaminated by surface-drainage. Again, the geological formation at Richmond, where granite is soon struck in boring, does not seem to encourage the idea that we could get a large water supply from Artesian wells, so called.

A number of cities in this country are using mechanical filters, and there are many intelligent persons here who think filters are precisely what we need. But we believe our water-works officials are of the opinion that they would not do the work expected of them. They favor the storage-basin system. On the other hand, gentlemen here who have had much to do with clarifying James-river water, are of the opinion that the settling-basins wouldn't settle the water or this question either.

It seems to us that there would be risk in any sort of plan that we might adopt without elaborate investigation. James-river water is a peculiar water, and methods that have been effective in clearing other waters might fail here.

The first and best thing for us to do is to discuss this question freely. It is a public question of vast moment, involving the expenditure, first and last, of an immense sum of money, and we ought to satisfy ourselves that we are right before we go ahead with the outlay.

But how can we satisfy ourselves? We know of but one way, and that is by experimenting with the different methods suggested. Better to spend ten or fifteen thousand dollars in experiments than to plunge into this business on faith. After we have satisfied ourselves as to what is the best plan and how many dollars it is going to cost, we do not doubt that our people will strain a point to raise the money—if the sum required be within the bounds of reason.

Let us add that there is one feature of this muddy-water "business" that is of very serious import, and it is this:

Many of our people who have no filters, and who will not use alum as a coagulant, and have not the wherewithal to buy water brought from suburban springs and wells, are resorting to the old wells in this city. Most of these springs and wells are polluted and, therefore, are liable to produce sickness. If the old well at Camp Lee could give typhoid-fever to many soldiers—as some of the army surgeons think it did—why should we not be alarmed at our people's drinking water from old city wells? Better by far that the people drank the muddy river water than incur such a risk!

WELL TO REALIZE THEM.

General S. M. B. Young, of the regular army, who has just returned from Santiago, is thoroughly disgusted with the "Cuban patriots." His deductions from his experience in the fair island are that these worthies are a lot of degenerates; that they are utterly devoid of honor and gratitude, and that they are no more capable of self-government than the natives of Central Africa. They are, as to blood, says General Young, a mixture of negro, Spanish, Italian, and Indian, who inherit the bad qualities of all these races, and who "would loot everything in sight and then start in and rob one another."

General Young further declares that the leaders of the so-called Cuban army are adventurers, ready to sacrifice every end and everything to further their own ends, and is emphatically of the opinion that few of them would hesitate to sell out to the Spaniards if fully convinced that the United States are not going to deliver the island over to them.

General Young is not singular in his convictions, and his picture of the Cuban patriots is not an entirely original one. Long before there was any certainty about our espousing the Cuban cause an educated and most intelligent sea captain, who had sailed into every port in Cuba, and indeed, into nearly every port in the world, told us that the class that composed the Cuban insurgent forces was one of the "worst lots" he had ever encountered. As to their blood admixture, characteristics, aims, and ambitions, he described them pretty much as General Young describes them.

Moreover, after war was declared, there was abundant evidence forthcoming to show that the insurgents were not enthusiastic over the prospect of being reinforced by United States troops, their fear being that aid of that character would interfere with their dividing among themselves the political and other spoils when the Spaniards had been driven from the island.

However, since we are "in for it," we must accomplish the work we have undertaken to accomplish in Cuba, no matter what the cost. We must pacify the island and establish thereon a stable government, no matter how herculean the task, or how great the obstacles in the way of that consummation. That is a thing settled.

Still, it was well that the task were kept prominently before our people in all of its immensity. It was well that none of the difficulties were minimized. And for the reason that there yet remains a strong sentiment among us in favor of annexing the Philippines.

Were we to annex the Philippines, we could not be expected to do less by them than we are expected to do by Cuba. We would be under obligations to pacify those islands and set up stable government on them, also. Unpromising as is the material we have to work upon in Cuba, still more unpromising is the material we would have to work upon in the Asiatic group. As "degenerate" as is the average Cuban insurgent, still more degenerate is the Philippine Malay, while in natural savagery he can give his Cuban brother large odds. But that is not all. The Malays are "desirable citizens," as compared with certain tribes of the interior of the Philippines. These latter have not only never shown the slightest disposition to yield to the influences of civilization, but it is a serious question, whether anything short of their extermination would render the country they roam habitable for others. They are among the lowest order of human creatures; being ethnically connected, it is held by some, with all their experience in managing inferior races, can make no impression on except with machine guns.

So we say it would be well that we realize the difficulties that are before us in Cuba, to the end that we be deterred from courting infinitely greater difficulties elsewhere.

WAR NOTES.

The surface indications are that in the Sampson-Schley controversy the Secretary of the Navy sides with the former officer. But then he can hardly be called a non-partisan, since he it was who "jumped" Sampson to his present command over the heads of many senior officers.

It does not appear that General Wheeler signed Roosevelt's round robin. Why, we have never seen explained; but we may be sure old Joe had good reasons for his non-action. The round robin business was a species of insubordination, which may have been justified by the exigencies of the case, but the giving of the paper to the press before the War Office had seen it was quite another matter.

Lieutenant Hobson says he rather likes the homage that is being paid him. Of course, he does. Who, if in his place, wouldn't? Yet it would be well for him to put a check upon the exuberance of some of his new found friends.

By the way, the name of the St. Louis belle who requested of Hobson, at Long Beach, the pleasure of a kiss, is Miss Arnold. The members of her family are by no means proud of her achievement; on the contrary, they are much mortified at that proceeding of hers, and her brother has reprimanded her by telegram.

There is some friction between General Coppinger and several of the members of his staff. What it is, is kept secret for the present, but it is known that all of them will not leave with him when he sails from Tampa to Porto Rico in a few days.

Soldiers have had the innings on the politicians for the past four months, but the indications now are that the latter will soon come to the front again. Wars may come, and wars may go, but politicians may be found ready for business always.

If the condition of our army at Santiago is as desperate as the round-robin generalists declare it to be, it would be well to give more room on the transports to the men, and less to the officers' horses. Certainly space that could be occupied by a man could not be taken for a horse, if the peril from yellow-fever is as great as it is said to be.

SELFISH SAMPSON.

Captain Mahan, the celebrated writer on naval topics, and a member of the wonderful Board of Naval Strategy, has published a long article criticising the friends of Commodore Schley, in which he endeavors to show that Sampson is entitled to the laurels of the naval battle at Santiago. He claims that if Sampson had been seventy miles away, instead of seven, he would still be entitled to the credit.

In this matter the fair-minded American public will not agree with Captain Mahan, and they are as good judges of the equities of the case as he is. No technicalities are involved. It is a simple matter of honest dealing.

All concede that the disposition of the fleet was Sampson's. All admit that that disposition was wise and skillful; but suppose Schley had so managed his part of the business that the Spanish fleet had escaped. Who would have been responsible? Would it have been Schley or Sampson? Does any one pretend to think that Sampson would have assumed the responsibility? No. That could not have been expected.

Sampson having been absent, and the command having devolved upon Schley, when the battle was fought, is Schley to have no credit at all? Is Sampson to take it all? The idea is ridiculous; more, it is outrageous!

Sampson is entitled to credit for all the plans that he laid; Schley is entitled to the credit for taking the fleet into action and winning the fight. Yet, the narrow, and jealous-minded Sampson never once mentioned Schley's name in the Fourth-of-July cablegram that he sent the War Department!

In short, Sampson, who was absent during the fight, let all the praise come to him and managed to have Schley's name ignored. Mahan may write ten thousand articles, but he can never defend such conduct as that.

If Mahan's view of the equities of the case are such as prevail in our navy, then Heaven save the navy! But we cannot believe the Mahan view is the view of the American navy. No; we are sure they would give credit where credit is due—to Sampson for his disposition of the fleet while lying in wait; to Schley for his success in taking the fleet into action and winning the day.

Sampson made the mistake of his life and blotted his record when he failed to do justice to Schley in his official report. It was not magnanimous; it was not just.

We entered the basement, went up the broad stone steps, and met the host at the top. He moved his hand toward the row of forty pretty girls, to whom I gave one general bow, which was supposed to introduce me to every one. They asked me if I would dance a "beehive." I replied that I was sure I could not dance such a thing as that. What was my surprise to see them commencing a regular Virginia reel, "Beehives" being simply their pronunciation of Virginia-Cavite Letter in the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Good for the Philippines; we now begin to take some interest in them. We had not supposed that our good old Virginia reel had travelled so far.

Now we know that it is "unfortunately" too true that peace is in sight. Leading papers in various parts of the country are again discussing, editorially, the relative merits of crack baseball players.

The New York Tribune says: "A plague of small sharks infests some portions of New York bay." And a plague of large sharks has infested a certain financial quarter of New York city, both winter and summer, to these many years.

In the matter of drawing fire from the newspapers, Secretary-of-War Alger is a success. Just at present about two thirds of the papers North and East have their criticism batteries turned upon him.

The New York papers evidently consider Roosevelt a bigger man than old Alger.

General Miles might do well to remember that Porto Rico molasses makes the best taffy in the world, to the end that he put not too much confidence in glib-bearing Porto Ricans.

Spain's Illiteracy.

(Contemporary Review.) Modern languages are unknown in Spain to a degree which has to be realized before it can be believed. Politicians, statesmen, physicians, journalists, courtiers, and even merchants are content with speaking their own Spanish language—and can very seldom express themselves in any other. I have seen Englishmen and Frenchmen in the foreign department of the Central telegraph office, unable to find a single official conversant, in any degree, with the French tongue. The Liberal Government of Senor Sagasta, having introduced censorship of foreign telegrams, such as has never been practiced in Russia, was at its wit's end to find a censor capable of reading messages written in German, and, finally, it was decided that they should go as they were, unexamined. I frequently saw two identical telegrams, one in French and the other in German, handed in at the telegraph office, and on the following day I learned that the French message had been suppressed by the censor and the German telegram transmitted without remark.

Sidlow Not Lindow.

White Gate, Va., August 6, 1898. To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Dear Sir,—In your issue of August 5th, you have a list of promotions at Camp Alger, in which occurs an error, in spelling, which very frequently occurs. You have "James Lindow" promoted to the rank of sergeant in Company E (Pitz Lee Rifles). It should be James Sidlow, who was formerly a corporal in the above company.

Please correct in the Dispatch for the benefit of his friends. Very respectfully yours, W. B. SNIDOW.

Conversation.

(Punch.) Fair Lady (trying to be deeply interested in the music): Can you tell me who is singing now?

Little Mr. Simpson (hot and exhausted with the crush): Well, I don't know exactly—but I rather think it's a man. (Doubts whether to be precise, he should not add, "or woman," but conversation collapses.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

During the past week the Petersburg Iron-Works shipped to the order of the government ten car-loads of 12-inch shells made by the company. The company is working day and night under contract for the manufacture of projectiles, and is considerably ahead in its work.

Lieutenant William B. Snider has been detailed from Santiago to West Point and assigned to duty as assistant on the academic staff as military instructor.

Mr. George Cameron, son of ex-Governor William E. Cameron, is at home from Jacksonville on furlough.

About ten miles of the Richmond, Petersburg, and Carolina railroad have been completed, and the first shipments of freight have been made.

The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes one-third farther than any other brand.



ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

HOLD POST-OFFICE ROBBERY.

Thieves Make a Big Haul at Old Point.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—The Old Point post-office was robbed some time after 10 o'clock last night of \$2,400 in stamps, \$50 in cash, and twenty registered letters, the contents of which are unknown to Postmaster Kimberly and his assistants.

The postal authorities have a strong clue to the cracksmen, who were evidently professionals in their line, and hope to effect an early capture of the robbers.

This was the most daring post-office robbery that has ever occurred in this section.

The thieves, of whom it is reasonably certain that there were two, forced an entrance to the new post-office some time after 10 o'clock, shortly after the postal force left the building, and repaired to the office where the safe is kept. The safe is a small affair, only 4 feet high, and not of modern manufacture. Postmaster Kimberly had ordered a new safe, which was at the depot at the time of the robbery, waiting to be transferred to the post-office.

An examination of the safe this morning showed that a 5-8-inch hole had been drilled and tapped between the handle and the combination. Instead of using dynamite, the explosion of which would surely have attracted the attention of some of the people who are usually up to midnight, the intruders screwed in a long eye-bolt, and with a lever the eye of the instrument forced the lock to pieces.

Postmaster Kimberly very fortunately removed \$1,500 in cash from his safe Saturday night to the safe at the Hygeia Hotel for safekeeping. Had this step not been taken, the burglars would have secured this amount.

As soon as the robbery was discovered this morning Postmaster Kimberly communicated with Postmaster Fred. Read, of this city, and the latter proceeded to Old Point to assist in the investigation.

On his way down to the Point, while on the car, Mr. Read secured the clue, which was strengthened by many statements, and on which the postal authorities and police are now working. Mr. Read asked the conductor of the train if he had heard of the robbery, and whether or not he had noticed any suspicious persons on his train since Saturday.

The conductor recalled having seen two men on his train, who acted in a suspicious manner, and who were overheard to remark about "making a haul" on some "big haul" on their way to Old Point about 6 o'clock Saturday evening. The conductor remarked to one of the passengers that he did not like the looks of the men, and thought they were up to some mischief.

One of the men is described as being 35 or 40 years of age, 180 pounds in weight, wearing a light moustache, and three or four days' growth of beard. The other was 19 or 20 years of age, tall and thin, with sandy hair. Both men were well, but plainly dressed.

Mr. Read saw Mr. Kimberly at Old Point and the two made an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the robbery. A guard on duty outside of the post-office last night was summoned by Adjutant Phillips, who had stated that he saw two men acting suspiciously about the reservation and the description he gave tallied that obtained by Mr. Read of the two men on the train.

A detective in the office of the Chief of Police, at Norfolk, when called over the telephone, stated that he had arrested two men answering the same description in that city last week and had ordered them to leave Norfolk. One of the men, he said, had a glass eye. He thought it would be well to look for them in Newport News or vicinity.

MORTON SENTENCED.

To Be Hanged in October—Other Petersburg News.

PETERSBURG, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—In the Hastings Court to-day the case of Robert Morton (colored), convicted of murder in the first degree, in shooting and killing Mr. George H. Westmoreland, at West-End Park, on the evening of June 25th last, came up on a motion for a new trial. One of the important grounds alleged on Friday for a new trial was the information reported to the defense that Morton had been tried as a prisoner was a member of the mob who had gathered in the vicinity of the jail with the intention, as was supposed, of lynching the prisoner.

Mr. R. H. Ray, counsel for Morton, stated that he had made a thorough and exhaustive investigation as to the truth of this report, and he was prepared to say that he could discover no foundation for it. The Court expressed itself as gratified at the frank statement of the defense, and after believing from the first that such a serious charge against a juror could be true.

The simple motion for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict of the jury was contrary to the law and the evidence, was then submitted without argument, and overruled by the Court.

Robert Morton was then directed to stand up. He had nothing to say why sentence should not be passed upon him, and appeared as unmoved and impassive as a granite post. The Court spoke of the fair and impartial trial he had had, and of the manner in which he had been defended, and of the dreadful crime of which he had been convicted after every protection of the law had been given him. After advising him to repent of his ways and devote himself during the remainder of his days to preparation for death, which there was little or no hope could be averted, the Court sentenced Morton to be hanged by the neck until dead, on the 7th day of October, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. The Judge's sentence was quite affecting, a large crowd of both white and colored people being in the courtroom, but Morton seemed to be without feeling, and did not show even the quiver of a muscle. He walked back to the jail as steady as though he had been an indifferent spectator of the court proceedings.

During the past week the Petersburg Iron-Works shipped to the order of the government ten car-loads of 12-inch shells made by the company. The company is working day and night under contract for the manufacture of projectiles, and is considerably ahead in its work.

Lieutenant William B. Snider has been detailed from Santiago to West Point and assigned to duty as assistant on the academic staff as military instructor.

Mr. George Cameron, son of ex-Governor William E. Cameron, is at home from Jacksonville on furlough.

About ten miles of the Richmond, Petersburg, and Carolina railroad have been completed, and the first shipments of freight have been made.

The filing of applications for lands deeded to the State in this city has had the effect of causing many of the

delinquents to come forward, pay expenses, and redeem their property.

WILLIAMSBURG.

Court—A Good Crowd in Attendance—Personal.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—The regular quarterly term of our County Court is now in session, Judge Sydney Smith presiding. There is a large turnout of sovereigns than usual, as the grand jury is in session, and is overhauling the books of the commissioners of revenue for the county and town, with a view to correcting any errors in assessment.

South estate, in James City county, on the Chickahominy river, was sold today under decree of the court, and was purchased by Captain T. C. Adams. This tract contains 90 acres, and has on it much valuable timber, and was formerly owned by Sylvester Pierce.

Mr. E. W. Warburton is now making his arrangements for the erection of a cannery. He expects to locate it upon the property of Mr. T. G. Peachy, just north of the railroad, and near what is known as Rock Spring.

Mr. Jack Bailey, of Portsmouth, an old Williamsburg lad, is here visiting his old home.

Mr. J. Cusick Hansford left yesterday for Newport, where he has accepted a position at the ship-yard.

Mrs. W. C. Mayo and her daughters left today for a visit to Mr. D. T. Openheimer, in Fluvanna county.

Mr. Benjamin Scott and Mr. J. W. Bowry, of Newport News, were here yesterday visiting friends.

Mr. J. R. Powell, of Old Point, was here yesterday to visit his mother.

Mr. C. T. Marable, of Bruton, sold today his farm near Hill's, on York river, to J. H. Burnham, of Michigan, who will engage in farming and in the oyster business.

FIRST DISTRICT DEMOCRATS.

Hon. William A. Jones Speaks in Mathews.

MATHEWS COURTHOUSE, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—Hon. W. A. Jones, the gallant standard-bearer of the Democracy of the First Congressional District, addressed a large and enthusiastic meeting during the recess of court to-day. Mr. Jones endorsed the principles of Democratic faith, as laid down in the national Democratic platform promulgated at Chicago in 1896, declaring the free and unlimited coinage of silver to be a paramount issue of the day. He said that this issue was the cause of the wonderful and unprecedented expansion of the export trade of the United States. The trade relations of the recently acquired territory would, he said, become more prominent in the campaign of 1899 than in the campaign of 1896. He declared the Dingley tariff bill to be an utter failure, and to help out the ordinary routine expenses of the government, he said, Congress had to consent to a tax of one cent on 3 per cent bonds to meet the deficiency occasioned by the Republican tariff bungling. Mr. Jones expressed the hope that he would be permitted to meet his adversary in joint debate after he shall have been named and placed in the field.

FATAL LIGHTNING.

A Rockbridge Farmer Killed—Death of a Lady.

LEXINGTON, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—Thomas Bain, of Upper Kerr's creek, this county, was struck by lightning yesterday afternoon and instantly killed. He, with two young men—"Bud" and Charles Reynolds—went to a wheat stack in a near by field, and on their return, while crossing a field, Bain was struck by the bolt, which tore the crown out of his head, singed his hair, and passed out his feet, tearing his shoes to pieces. Both of his companions were knocked down and rendered senseless. Upon reviving one of them saw Bain's shoe smoking. Both eventually recovered enough to go to the house. Bain was aged about 30 years.

Miss Martha M. Waddell, aged 70 years, eldest daughter of the late Dr. Livingston Waddell, died here yesterday. She was born in Waynesboro, and came here with her father, in 1896. Her funeral took place this afternoon from the residence of her brother-in-law, Colonel Edward W. Nichols.

Emporia and Vicinity.

EMPORIA, VA., August 8.—(Special.)—Information has been received here announcing the death of Mr. A. B. Parker, a prominent citizen of Sussex county, who resided about eight miles from here. Mr. Parker was about 70 years of age. He leaves a widow and an interesting family. Mr. Parker attended our court last Monday, apparently in good health. The cause of death was congestive chill.

Mr. Charles Baker, of Portsmouth, was on a visit to the family of Judge L. D. Yarrell.

The